NEW SERIES.

THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The thanks of the Committee are presented to Mrs. Reade, for her usual monthly parcel of new clothing; and to Anonymous, for parcel of odds and ends.

THE

TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

George Yard Ragged Schools, Church, and Shelter for Outcast Boys,

HIGH STREET, WHITECHAPEL,

WILL BE HELD (GOD WILLING)

On Tuesday Evening, June 16th,

(And not on June 2nd as previously advertised).

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G.,

WILL PRESIDE.

DOORS OPEN AT SEVEN O'CLOCK.

Tickets may be had at the School-room, and of Mr. Gent, Ragged School Union, 1, Exeter Hall.

To Managers and Superintendents of Ragged Schools.

Honest, Truthful Lads, from 14 to 17 years of age,

ABLE TO READ AND WRITE A LITTLE,

CAN OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT AT ONCE

IN THE CITY MESSENGER BRIGADE.

Gentlemen connected with Ragged Schools, and interested in the welfare of special cases coming under the above description, will please desire the Lads to call with one or both parents any evening between 8 and 9 o'clock, at Hope Place Mission Schools, World's End, Bull Lane, Stepney.

Enquiry should be made for Mr. J. Hawkins, the Inspector of City Messenger Brigade.

J. E. EAREE,

BREAKFAST AND TEA CONTRACTOR

127, HACKNEY ROAD, NEAR SHOREDITCH CHURCH.

J. E. E. respectfully begs to inform the Clergy, Superintendents of Schools, and others who are in the practice of commemorating their Anniversaries, &c., by Public Breakfasts and Tea Meetings, that he has every requisite for such occasions, comprising Tables, Coppers, and China to any extent, in a superior style, at extremely moderate charges.

J. E. E. tenders his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto favoured him with their kind patronage, and hopes by strict attention to ensure a continuance of the same; he also begs most respectfully to solicit the favour of their recommendation.

Rout Seats on Reasonable Terms. Vans, and every requisite for Excursion Parties, with the entire Management, taken by Contract.

COMMUNICATIONS BY POST IMMEDIATELY ATTENDED TO.

References are kindly permitted to be made to the Secretaries of the Ragged School Union and the Temperance League.

Friendless and Fallen.

London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution.

Notwithstanding the great increase in the cost of all household necessaries, coals, &c., the Committee did not restrict their operations in any way during 1873.

SUMMARY.

To Open-all-Night Refuge, 891 admitted in 1873.
To Preventive Homes, 112 ditto.
To Reformatory Homes, 304 ditto.
Income, 1872, £5,924; income, 1873, £5,614; decrease, 1873, £310.
Increased expenses of Homes in 1873, £232.
£12 10s. (Donation of) will sustain all the Homes one day.

Reader, Messrs. Bosanquet, Salt, & Co., Bankers, 73, Lombard Street, E.C., and Francis Nicholls, Esq. (of the Committee), 14, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C., will thankfully receive CONTRIBUTIONS; or

EDWARD W. THOMAS, Secretary,
200, Euston Road, N.W.

HERTFORD RAGGED SCHOOL
AND
CHILDREN'S MISSION.

The building at present used has become altogether inadequate to the requirements of the Mission, and the Committee are desirous of enlarging it. Part of the required sum, viz., £100, has been subscribed, but the Committee cannot proceed to the work, as they are resolved not to contract future anxiety by incurring a debt; they therefore earnestly and respectfully solicit Donations for the above-named object, which will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Sec., George Armatage, Bank, Hertford.

SOWERS AND REAPERS.

Above a century has passed away since Pope wrote his oft quoted but not worn-out axiom—

"What great events from little causes spring."

The truth of this celebrated line is remarkably illustrated by the history of the two sister societies, the London City Mission and the Ragged School Union. The one organised by earnest David Nasmith, amid obstacles insuperable to all but that faith which can remove mountains, is now so fully recognised by the religious public that it finds no difficulty in supporting above 400 evangelists: whilst the manifest success in reaching classes outside the usual religious agencies, suggested the formation of those kindred institutions, the Scripture Readers' Society and the Bible Women's Mission.

Similar is the history of the London Ragged School Union. Originated in 1846 by a few earnest Sunday School teachers, it closed its first year with 20 schools and 2,000 scholars; but now, at the end of its thirty years' campaign against social vice and misery, it can report that in the 170 affiliated institutions there are 28,591 children and 10,000 adults. Nor is this all. For, through the remarkable success Ragged Schools had in dealing with the young, was suggested those vigorous offshoots for the reclamation of juvenile outcasts, Refuges, Industrial Schools, and Reformatories.

From the very outset of its career of usefulness the Ragged School Union has been marked by one feature—*progress!* The success of one plan—and we do not know of one scheme that has failed—invariably suggested other aggressive agencies. Hence it is that the aggregate of our operations is now so large; many, indeed, of the older institutions conducting above twenty different agencies, all in a healthy condition.

Nor amid the crisis through which we have passed since the passing of the the Elementary Education Act, has there been any abatement in the yearly additions to our operations. Thus during the past three years no less than 220 new agencies were added to those already existing; and last year alone the affiliated schools reported 90 new operations. The total of such operations,

secular, social, and religious, exceeds 1,200. They are conducted by 2,875 voluntary, and 200 paid—but certainly not hireling—teachers.

But it may be asked, If such be the growth of the system, have the results been proportionate to the toil and expense entailed? Now we should be sorry to be included in the list of those who will not labour for good unless *visible* fruit is vouchsafed; for duty to our neighbour, especially to the weak or the helpless, would remain a Divine law, even if no results came from patient and prayerful labour. Yet we believe that no one has ever sown the "incorruptible seed of the word" without reaping a goodly harvest —it may be at once, but if not, assuredly "after many days."

If proof were needed to show that the reaper has followed the sower like his very shadow, we would point to some of the facts recorded in the Thirtieth Annual Report of the Central Society.

Viewing, then, our work in its social results, we would refer to the 27,418 children and adults who by means of our Penny Banks were last year taught the duty of thinking of to-morrow as well as of to-day. Knowing, too, how much of the poverty or crime of London is caused by intemperance, we think that the fact that 5,240 scholars have joined our 44 Bands of Hope tells that they at least will not join that large class who unhappily drink England out of its financial difficulties.

But limiting our remarks more especially to one of the many social results of our united labours, we would refer to our prize scholars to show what religious training can do. The rules of the Ragged School Union are so stringent that many local friends murmur at the labour thereby entailed in January, when the returns are made. But the object of the Committee of the Central Society has been to preclude the possibility of any unscrupulous person passing their tests; and thus, whilst the number of prize-holders is probably limited, every case can bear the strictest scrutiny. It is most gratifying, then, to find that during the past twenty-one years 12,211 prizes have been awarded, and that nearly 600 scholars have just won this, the Victoria Cross of the Ragged School Union.

To those who have read the conditions under which the prizes are awarded it is scarcely needful to indicate that certificates not only of service, but of good conduct, have to be subscribed by the various employers. But, in addition to the printed certificates, it

is not uncommon for remarks to be appended voluntarily of the most satisfactory character. As an illustration, we give the following, which were received by the managers of the Ragged School in Perkins's Rents, Westminster:—

"Georgina R. A very *honest*, steady, deserving young person.

Sarah P. Strictly *honest*, and general conduct good and satisfactory.

Jane E. A credit to herself and those by whom she has been instructed.

Margaret D. *Honest*, truthful, and steady.

Amelia S. *Honest*, truthful, and industrious.

Anne T. } Sisters and { *Honest* and industrious.
Emma T. } Motherless. { An *honest* and industrious girl.

Elizabeth D. Very deserving, *honest*, and trustworthy.

Sarah B. Sober, *honest*, and industrious.

James S. A well-behaved, hard-working, *honest* lad.

William J. Truthful, *honest*, and a well-conducted boy.

Alexander D. } Brothers. { An *honest* and industrious boy.
Richard D. } Orphans. { Seaman, H.M.S. Pylades — good-conduct marks.

Thomas B. Great pleasure in testifying to the excellent character he still maintains."

As striking are the spiritual results of thus sowing broadcast the good seed of the kingdom.

Thus we may point to the encouraging fact that nearly 200 of our voluntary teachers were formerly scholars in Ragged Schools. Some of these are able superintendents of the very schools where they were won for Jesus; and several are now evangelists or pastors of no common order.

Again, the fact that above 1,200 elder scholars voluntarily attend our senior Bible Classes, though beyond the average school age, leads to the inference that they are hungering for the bread of life. Not a few of these attend those Teachers' Prayer Meetings which do so much to give *tone* to our work. Scholars' Prayer Meetings, too, are not uncommon.

These, and similar facts might be multiplied did space permit, fully show that, if there has been the sowing time, there has also been the reaping-tide. This should stimulate us to still more persistent efforts in our great battle with the vice and the sorrow of this great city. For we believe that what we now know is not

a tithe of what will be revealed when "sowers and reapers rejoice together." For the Divine pledge is the inheritance of every true hearted worker for Jesus, and that in every age,—"those that sow in tears SHALL reap in joy!"

OUTLINE OF THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

DURING the first two decades and a half, or twenty-five years, the progress of the Society, and the results worked out by the multifarious efforts put forth, were not only satisfactory, but marvellous. And it is also a matter for very special thanks to Almighty God for enabling so many of the promoters and first friends of the Society to continue their valued labours through the whole of the thirty years, and who are serving the Society to the present day. Among these are—the President, the Treasurer, the Hon. Solicitor, the Secretary, and as many as ten Members of the Visiting Committee, or Vice-Presidents, all of whom are named in the list of officers, &c., in the first Report.

The gratifying progress to which reference has been made in the first two and a half decades will be seen by comparing the figures of each period. At the commencement it was estimated that there were at least 30,000 children in London to be dealt with by Ragged Schools. Some of the results following the efforts made will be thus seen:—

	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	No. of Voluntary Teachers.	No. of Paid Teachers, Day and Evening.
At the end of 1st year.....	20	2000	200	*Nil.*
At the end of 1st decade.....	129	13,478	1702	280
At the end of 2nd decade	175	24,631	2841	363
At the end of 2½ decades	188	32,339	3448	424

This brings to about the period of the passing of the Elementary Education Act, 1870. It was seen from the first that the passing of this Act would check the further development of the *Day* Schools, and in time absorb this portion of the Ragged School movement. The following tabular statement will show the progress of the Day School department during the thirty years:—

	Day School Scholars.	Paid Teachers for Day Schools.	Paid Monitors in Day Schools.
At the end of 1st year.....	*Nil.*	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
At the end of 1st decade.....	9,046	132	*Nil.*
At the end of 2nd decade	18,677	190	450
At the end of 2½ decades	23,992	236	585
At the end of 3rd decade	10,018	231	285

Comparing the returns of this year with those obtained immediately before the passing of the Elementary Education Act, it will be seen to what extent changes have been made:—Transferred to Board Schools, 39 schools with 8,871 scholars; become pay schools, 6 schools with 1,409 scholars; closed, fearing loss of support, &c., 26 schools with 3,096 scholars. Total—71 schools with 13,376 scholars. Having deducted the whole of the foregoing large numbers from the Society's list, the Committee still have to report that at the present time there are affiliated to the Society seventy-two Day Schools, with 10,018 scholars in average attendance. The changes already commenced will probably go on till the whole of the Day Schools have either been absorbed by the School Board, or compelled to alter their character so that they will no longer be institutions specially adapted to meet the wants of the Ragged Class. The Committee, however, will not voluntarily abandon any school faithful to its mission; but rather render it increased help, to do its own work, so long as its managers remain identified with the Society. And when the last of their Day Schools is struck from off the Society's list, there will remain a large amount of effort still to be carried on of a religious, social, and educational character. This mission work has from the commencement been the basis of all the Society's operations. The primary object of every effort, whether Sunday, or Week Day and Evening, was to impress the Gospel of Christ on the heart of both juveniles and adults. And this work, so well commenced and so long continued, the Committee purpose still to carry on in humble dependence upon Divine aid and guidance. Special Conferences have been recently held of the Officers and Teachers, voluntary and paid, in four different parts of London, at which the subject considered was "THE MISSION WORK IN RAGGED SCHOOLS, AND HOW TO PROMOTE IT." A large number of the local friends were gathered at these meetings, and it is hoped with advantage to their respective schools. They are already carrying on a great work. If the whole of the Day Schools were at once struck off from the Society's list there would still remain upwards of 1,100 benevolent and religious operations to be carried on under the auspices of the Parent Committee.

Active efforts have been made to meet the necessities of the respective localities by forming new schools and promoting fresh agency during the last year. Last year the number of additional operations was 90. The year before it was 72, and the year before that it was 58.

The numbers of schools and scholars, as returned by the local friends last spring, are:—165 school buildings, in which are conducted 236 Sunday Afternoon and Evening Schools, with an average attendance of 28,591; 72 Day Schools, with an average attendance of 10,018 (number on register, 13,122); 102 Evening Schools, with an average attendance of 6,033 (number on register, 9,213).

A large staff of voluntary teachers continue to give their services for the working of the schools, and without whose kindly attention and influence not a tithe of the mission work that is done could be effected. The returns lately received give the present number of these workers as 2,875, whose average attendance is 2,057, so that nearly four out of five

are always present. It is gratifying to state that many are not satisfied by thus devoting their Sabbaths, but give much of their time to assist in the conduct of the Week-evening Schools. In the four districts of London there are 33 Evening Schools, wholly conducted by voluntary teachers, and 13 other Evening Schools, conducted conjointly by voluntary and paid teachers. It is pleasing to note that among the voluntary teachers there are 188 persons who were formerly scholars in the schools. These form a kind of native agency, and having been subject to the converting grace of God, become useful and skilful in the work of reformation among their neighbours.

Meetings for prayer continue to be held in 95 schools, with an average attendance of 40 persons, most of whom are the elder scholars. Special Bible Classes for the senior scholars are held in 68 schools, with an average attendance of upwards of 109. Prayer Meetings and Bible Classes form a gauge by which the spiritual life of a school is often fairly ascertained. During the past year this spiritual life has been manifested in many parts. A conviction has been realised that the conversion of children is possible, not by sensational means, but by faith working by love.

The number of paid teachers now carrying on the Day and Evening Schools is 231, aided by 285 paid monitors.

During last winter the Committee gave the teachers an opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of the Tonic Sol-fa system of singing, with a view to its more general adoption in the schools by both voluntary and paid teachers. Mr. Proudman very effectively conducted the class which was formed by 120 members, two-thirds of whom were Ragged School teachers. Twenty members of the class took the "elementary" certificate, 5 of whom also took the "intermediate" certificate. In 18 schools are conducted Psalmody Classes or Services of Song, attended by 1,100 scholars and teachers. The Committee are pleased to notice an increasing disposition among the teachers to cultivate harmony in their schools.

The Children's Religious Services have been continued through the year with satisfactory results. There have been 41 of these gatherings of the young, at which the average attendance has been 67, the total being 2,750. The service is of a simple character, and is completed in about one hour. It is rendered cheerful by the singing of several well-known hymns. The Bible lesson takes about 20 minutes, and usually dwells on some one of the great cardinal truths of Scripture.

Meetings for adults having a similar object in view, and popularly known as Ragged Churches, are conducted in 65 schools, and the attendance is 5,756. Each congregation on an average consists of 88 persons. The attendants are mostly not only the poorest of the poor, but often the vilest of the vile. Amongst the more respectable are shirtmakers, charwomen, dock labourers, and fish-hawkers. But in others—three of the largest especially—the bulk of the congregation consists of beggars, casuals, disreputables, and thieves. It is for these and such that the first London Ragged Church was organised in 1852, with eminent success. Not only is the behaviour of these strange flocks all that could be desired, but

hundreds have been saved from the "wrath to come" through the preaching of that simple Gospel which declares that man is nothing and Christ everything.

Bibles for Ragged Scholars are continued to be supplied by the Parent Committee at the reduced price of sixpence for the tenpenny Bible. Last year 960 copies were sold at this reduction. The total sold is 39,448.

The present is the 21st year of the distribution of Scholars' Prizes awarded to boys and girls who, having been scholars in Ragged Schools, have become servants in families, and in houses of business, and are recommended for good conduct by the employers they have served, but in no case for a period less than twelve months. In the twenty-one years as many as 12,211 prizes have been awarded, which, on an average, is 582 yearly. The number to be now distributed is 592. The prize card given this year was designed and printed by the same good friend who has done so in former years, and who well remembers, when a Ragged School boy, taking one of the prizes nineteen years ago. The prize card is embellished with an embossed medallion likeness of the President, Lord Shaftesbury, the die of which was the artistic work of the late Joseph Shepherd Wyon, who for ten years was a member of the Committee of the Union. In addition to the prize card a book is given to those who have previously taken a prize in money. On the present occasion the prize book for the boys is "My First Voyage to the Southern Seas," by W. H. G. Kingston; and for girls, "Precepts in Practice; or, Stories illustrating Proverbs," by A. L. O. E.

The Penny Banks continue to promote thrifty and provident habits among the class which, as a rule, spend all they get as fast as they get it, and are soon reduced to great straits. There are 81 of these Banks at present conducted in the schools, 10 of which have not sent returns; but in the 71 Banks there were, during last year, 13,743 juvenile depositors. The amount in the year deposited was £6,950 14s. 8d., but at the close of the year the balance was £1,576 1s. 2½d. In addition, there were 27 Banks for adults—parents of the scholars and others, with 3,673 depositors, and who had deposited in the year £3,030 19s. 8d., but at the close the balance was only £539 13s. 6d. These balances would, on an average, give 2s. 3½d. to the children, and 2s. 11½d. to the adults.

Mothers' Meetings are conducted in 73 school buildings, with an average attendance of about 40; the total being 2,834. These meetings are one of the means for giving effect to the Society's second rule, "to assist the *old* as well as the young in the study of the Word of God."

Clothing Clubs have also done much to supersede rags and discomfort, and so successfully in some cases, as apparently to lift the recipients of the benefits to a degree of social elevation leading casual observers to suppose the benefits to have been misplaced, or the alms to have been promiscuous. The conclusion sometimes arrived at is, that such children ought not to be considered as Ragged scholars; it is, however, only needful to lift the exterior garment, or visit the home, to correct this impression.

Infant Nurseries are to be found in five different parts of London, and

are of great service to hard-working mothers whose work is from home, and who have no suitable persons with whom they could leave their offspring. A daily payment is required for the care of each babe, but the united payments do not meet the expenses, but the extra cost confers a boon to the mother and a blessing to the child.

During the last winter Weekly Dinners were given in 35 schools to about 4,500 children. The cost for food is considerable, but is mostly defrayed by a special fund, under the management of the Destitute Children's Dinner Society. The purchasing and preparing the food, cooking, &c., are attended to by the teachers and the elder girls under them.

Bands of Hope, for promoting temperance principles and habits, are conducted in 44 schools, with 5,240 members.

The Rest for Weary Workers last year gave comfort and quiet to 30 teachers. The board and lodging are paid from a small fund specially raised for the purpose, and which, inaugurated under the auspices of "A. L. O. E.," has been sufficient to meet the demands of each year. The cottage of a Christian family in Bracknell, Berkshire, was available for the purpose.

In the summer of last year the Committee renewed their invitation to the teachers to spend a day with them in the country. The Teachers' Holiday, on that occasion, was on Saturday, June 21, and which, with great enjoyment, was spent in Bushey Park. The Children's Excursion took place on Friday, August 1, in Bushey Park. Arrangements were made to convey the 1,400 children from all parts of London to Teddington Station. The Day Schools invited to join are those for which no other provision had been made for a day's holiday for the scholars. Refreshments were provided for the teachers and children, and a good supply of toys were distributed among the latter, which much added to the pleasant occupation of the day.

The Shoeblack Brigades have completed their 23rd year, having commenced with the year of the first great International Exhibition. In that year, 1851, the number of boys employed was 36, and their earnings £650, or 8s. weekly each lad. The last year, 1873, the number of boys employed was 337, and their earnings were £11,880, or weekly each boy 13s. 6d. In the 23 years they have earned £135,600, by polishing 32,544,720 pairs of shoes. The Central Society has secured a site for its Home near Farringdon Road. The building will cost £3,000. The fund resulting from the Society's share of the boys' earnings, amounting to £1,400, is available for this purpose; and the Committee of the Ragged School Union have voted £200, and £600 has been otherwise collected.

A new Rating Bill was brought in by Mr Stansfeld, which proposed to repeal the "Act to exempt from Rating Sunday and Ragged Schools." This Act was only permissive, but its preamble is clear and definite, viz., "that until lately, buildings used as Sunday and Ragged Schools for gratuitous education, enjoyed an exemption from poor and other rates, *and it is expedient that they should be exempted from such liability.*" The Act of 1869 was passed by 228 against 71. The friends of the Sunday School Union, the Sunday School Institute, and the Ragged School

Union organised a vigorous opposition. The result was that when Mr. Stansfeld's Bill was brought before the House on June 17 of last year, it was defeated by 239 against 27.

During the past year the two Agents continued their services among the schools, suggesting improvements, keeping the schools to the class, conferring with managers, and in varied ways rendering the schools increasingly useful by the putting forth of efforts required by the respective localities. Last year they paid 1,482 visits.

In December last was completed the 25th volume of the "Ragged School Union Magazine," and with January, 1874, it continued its course in a new series, with the intention to devote more space to local efforts, to the suggestions of new plans or methods, to the narration of cases of usefulness which, by God's blessing on the means employed, have marked the history of the Ragged School movement; and, by the use of a larger type, make the periodical to be easily read, as well as its contents to be increasingly interesting.

The Balance Sheet will show that the general receipts for the year amounted to £3,172, the legacies to £2,505, the sale of magazines, &c., to £128, making the total income £3,805. On the other side, the grants and other helps to the schools amounted to £2,930, the Magazine to £227, and the general expenses to £698, making the total payments £3,856, the payments being £57 in excess of the receipts.

In conclusion, the Committee would once more reiterate that the great object of real education is to inculcate the fear and love of God in the heart, to impress the realities of a future life upon the mind, to train to a life of usefulness and godliness, and thus develop Christian character in the life that now is, and by a living faith in a crucified Redeemer prepare both soul and body for the life that is to come.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

HELD AT EXETER HALL, ON MONDAY EVENING, MAY 11*th*, 1874.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY PRESIDED.

THE noble President was supported by Sir R. W. Carden and Mr. Locke, Vice-Presidents, and the Committee. And also by Bishop Ryan, the Revs. R. C. Billing, C. Brake, W. Cadman, W. F. Chapman, J. W. Davidson, W. C. Ker, J. Lumb, J. Marston, G. Morgan, W. Guy Pearse, C. B. Seeley, R. J. Simpson, J. Tyng (New York), Colonel Sandwith, Major Ditmas, Major C. Gardiner, Captain Bayly; Drs. Cross and Ellis; Messrs. F. A. Bevan, A. Haldane, J. Lawrie, T. B. Smithies, &c., &c.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. C. Brake, and by singing the hymn, "Come, let us join our cheerful songs."

As at the previous annual meeting, the prizes given for good service were publicly received. The meeting was enlivened by the prize scholars

singing several pieces, under the direction of Mr. Proudman. The singing, in the words of the *Daily News*, "gave universal satisfaction."

After announcing the receipt that day of a donation of £100 from Sir R. W. Carden, Mr. J. G. Gent read an abstract of the Report of the Committee for the past year.

BISHOP RYAN said: My Christian friends, a very pleasant duty has devolved upon me; I have to propose "That the Report presented this evening, portions of which have been read, with the balance-sheet, be adopted; and that the gentlemen named in the printed list be the Committee for the year 1874-5." It is often felt that there is a great danger in the frequent recurrence of meetings like this, and that danger is that people may be satisfied with talking and not proceed to doing. Now I believe that this Ragged School Union has thoroughly avoided that danger. When I look back to the last thirty years I am reminded that the supporters of the Union have rendered most valuable services to the cause during the whole of that time. But I am also reminded of something else which made a deep impression on my mind thirty years ago. I was at that time living in the Isle of Alderney. The English newspapers used to arrive very irregularly, and sometimes we did not get one for weeks together. Well, one day I received a newspaper containing a report of an interesting debate in the House of Commons, and that report included a speech made by the then Lord Ashley—one of the most magnificent speeches that I ever read. It was a speech in which his lordship described to the House of Commons the need which existed for the extension of education, in order that the benefits of education might be brought within the reach of the hundreds of thousands of children who were then neglected. In two or three sentences the speaker gave the whole philosophy of true teaching, and at the close of his speech, addressing the House with the greatest earnestness, he said: "There are many minds to be instructed, there are many hearts to be softened;" he did not stop there, but went on to say, "there are many souls to be saved." My friends, you have got all education there — minds to be instructed, hearts to be softened, and souls to be saved. Now, looking back to the past operations of the Union, we find that at the end of two and a half decades there were 188 schools and 32,339 scholars, and that there were no less than 3,448 voluntary teachers. If I am asked what are the results of the work, I reply, "Look around." There you see some of the most delightful results that could ever be presented to Christian minds. The general results of the work of this Society are intensely practical and also intensely gratifying. But to my mind there is something more important than general results. If instead of looking at general results we look at individual cases, and if in doing so we find but a single existence of conversion, we feel that the Holy Spirit has been in our work, and having that conviction, we are strengthened in reference to the future. It is delightful to find that the diversified operations of this Society include the establishment of homes for poor outcast boys where they may be prepared to become

useful members of society, and also fitted, if possible, to share in the blessedness of a world to come. Let me now allude to the case of a boy who had not such advantages—and it seems to me a very interesting case of conversion. A gentleman met in one of the streets of London a boy who seemed in a very destitute condition. He discovered in conversation with him that he had no relations or friends whatever, and having addressed a few encouraging words to him, he left him in the street. Immediately after he heard a scream as if some one had been suddenly hurt, and on looking back he found that that poor little fellow had been run over by an omnibus. There the child lay terribly injured, and the injury proved to be fatal. He was picked up and first placed against a wall. A doctor was sent for, and the result was that he was conveyed to the nearest hospital, where he lay in a dying condition. While he was lying there the gentleman again tried to find out whether he did not know some one, or whether there was any one to whom he would like to send a message. "No," the little fellow said, "there is no one." At last, just as he was expiring, he said, "Tell the Sunday lady I's going to Jesus." Now among all the results of such work as yours, my friends, I don't know one that surpasses that. To have been made the means of imparting such a knowledge of Christ that when the shadows of death are resting over the mortal eye the spiritual eye is enabled to realise that the soul is going to Jesus,—what result could be more delightful than that? I am here reminded how brief is the period during which any of us will be able to labour for the souls of those who are brought within the range of our influence. Shall we at last hear the Saviour saying to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant"? Shall children whom we have led to that Saviour receive us into everlasting habitations? There is recalled to my mind in connection with this point a very beautiful verse of a hymn. It is—

"I think I should mourn at my selfish neglect
If sorrow in heaven could be,
And no one should stand at the beautiful gate
Waiting and watching for me."

I feel that those who are engaged in working in such an earnest and devout manner as you teachers of Ragged Schools are doing, need not have any fear of that kind. I think you are sure to find at the beautiful gate those who are ready to welcome you to everlasting habitations; and that is, in my opinion, a thought which you ought to cherish. I earnestly hope that you will all be enabled to do good to the souls of the children among whom you labour, and if that should be the case they will assuredly welcome you joyfully to the blessed place above. As I am going to preach immediately at St. Paul's Cathedral for the Church of England Sunday School Institute, I must now draw my remarks to a close. I cannot, however, conclude without offering a warm expression of gratitude, not only in my own name, but, as I am perfectly certain I am justified in doing, in the name of all Christian people throughout the kingdom, to those devoted men and women who have gone forth to help Ragged School children, and whose labours have been blessed with such wonder-

ful results. And to this expression of gratitude I would add a word of caution. Whatever you do, my friends, never consent that any school of yours shall be given up or transferred, unless it be into the hands of those who will stand fast by your principle that the grand end of education is to bring the blessings of the Gospel of Christ into the souls of the children who are being trained.

The prize scholars then sang the "Sunday School War Cry."

The Rev. GUY PEARSE then addressed the children. He said: As I have been sitting on the platform and peeping round at you, I have been thinking that you are growing up to be be men and women, and I hope that you will be good men and women, and good Christians. I should like you all to have a good place to live in; and how are you to get that? Well, I'll tell you a story. I have seen somewhere or other the words, "How to buy a house for fourpence." How people did that I don't know; but I have seen a man who bought a good house for nothing, and you may get one in the same way. I heard of a man once who used to live in a place called "Ill-content." It was, it appeared, a dismal place to live in. It was always crowded, always cold, always miserable. Everybody and everything was wrong. He used to say that his wife was wrong, and his children were wrong, and the house was wrong, and the street was wrong, and the town was wrong, and the Government was wrong, and the parson was wrong. "Well," said he, "I went on in that way for some time, until at last one day I heard a man preach, and he told the people that what they all wanted was a new heart. Said he, 'Friends, everything must be wrong with you till you get your own hearts set right; and the best thing you can get is a new heart.' Well," continued this man, "I thought to myself, 'My old heart is a bad heart, it is a deceitful heart, and perhaps the best thing I can do is to try and get a new heart.' The same preacher told me I had nothing to do to get a new heart but to go to the right Person for it. I then went on my knees and said, 'Lord Jesus, they tell me that Thou canst give me a new heart; and Thou knowest that I need one; oh, give me a new heart.' And so He did. The Lord Jesus gave me a new heart. I got up in the morning; it seemed as if all the clouds had gone away. I said, 'What a beautiful day it is!' and my wife began to look upon me with surprise. By-and-bye I heard some little boys and girls, and on seeing them I said, 'What beautiful children they are!' and, bless you, they were my own children. I began to feel differently that very night; I began to feel kind and loving. I then looked round and said, 'This is a nice kind of place to live in, is the rent much?' 'Oh,' said the man, 'it is rent free.' 'But how about the rates and taxes?' said I. 'Oh, there are no rates and taxes,' was the reply; 'the house is like what the day schools ought all to be, there are no rates or taxes at all.' 'Well,' I said, 'that is just the sort of place I should like to live in; but how am I to get it?' 'Well,' said the man, 'all you have to do is to go straight in—open the door and walk in; this is "the house of good-content;" everybody can live here if he has only got his heart set right.' Now," continued the man,

"when I had got a new heart I found that everything was right. The town was right, the Queen—God bless her!—was right, all was right, and I have got this good place to live in." Now, boys and girls, I want you never to forget this. I want you to learn this prayer: "Oh, Lord Jesus, give me a new heart." And when you have got one you will go and live in the land of good-content. So the first thing that I wish you all is a good place to live in.

And then, the next thing that I wish for you is a Father to take care of you. Now I am going to tell you another story, and it is a story about a boy. When I am talking to boys and girls I always try to be like a boy myself; and boys, you know, generally begin to talk about themselves. Well, one day I overtook a little boy in Cornwall. Seeing a place that looked like a church or chapel a little way off, I said to him, "My boy, what place is that?" "Why," replied the lad, "that's our chapel." I said, "That's all right; but now what do you call it, what's the name of it?" "*Our* chapel, sir," said he. "But," said I, "is it a Church of England, or a Methodist, or a Presbyterian, or an Independent, or a Baptist chapel?" He scratched his head as if he didn't know anything about what I meant, and said, "We goes there." I asked him who he meant by "we," and he said, "Why, mother, and Betty, and *me*, sir."

Now, boys and girls, I am going to tell you about something that happened when I was a little boy, in order that you may see what it is to have a Father to take care of you. When I was a little boy I knew an old man who always had a smile on his face, and a kind word for boys and girls; and I used to think that I should like, when I grew up, to have a face that looked as happy as his. Well, one day a very sad thing happened. That dear old man was taken up on a charge of stealing. A strange constable—there were no policemen in those days, but each parish had a man who was called "the parish constable"—a strange constable went to this old man and said, "Your name is John Webster?" "Yes," was the reply. "Well," said the constable, "you are charged with thieving, and you must go with me." "Oh," said the old man, "I have not committed a theft—it must be another John Webster." The constable said, "I can't find any other John Webster, and you must go with me." Some persons who were standing by were then going to show fight for the old man, but John said, "Oh no, don't interfere with him, I've got a Father in heaven that will take care of me, and it will be all right; I will go with this man, and no doubt he will find out his mistake. But," he added, addressing the constable, "may I just go home for a minute or two? I have got a wife and some little ones at home, and they will be afraid if I go away without first seeing them." "No," said the constable; "come on." The lock-up was eleven miles from the place where John lived, and he had to walk all the way to it with the constable. Directly they had got to the place, the constable's wife came to him and said, "I dreamt about that man last night; I dreamt that you got into trouble for taking an innocent man; I think you ought not to have laid your hands upon him." "Well,"

replied the constable, "I don't think he is the right man, but I couldn't find anybody else of that name." John said afterwards, as he told the story, "'My Father in heaven knows this, and will take care of me, and my children also,' and so I walked along the road cheerfully. As I was walking along I heard a bird singing in the hedge. I thought, 'My Father in heaven cares for that bird, and He will care for me.' As I saw some flowers at the roadside, I thought, 'My Father in heaven cares for those flowers, and gives them dew to drink and a sun to warm them, and He cares for me.' When I had got to the prison I felt just like Daniel in the lions' den, when the Lord shut the mouths of the lions. When the policeman told me to lie down for the night, I said I should like first to thank my Father in heaven for all His goodness to me, and I added, 'Will you kneel down with me?' I am afraid," said John, "he did not care much about anything of that kind, for he went out of the room as if he had been shot. After I had prayed," continued John, "that dark room seemed to be full of light, and I had never before felt so much love in my heart. Well, the next morning the magistrate came to say that I might go home. I walked home—eleven miles—and as I was getting near my home I saw two or three men looking at me from my village. They said, "Why there is John Webster going home; we all knew he was an honest man; he said that his Father in heaven would take care of him, and He has done so. Let us send him a good dinner to celebrate his coming home." I am glad, my friends, to learn from the Report read this evening that 4,500 dinners have been given away during the past year. Well, the next day John was sitting down with his family to dinner. They had nothing but a crust of bread before them. His wife went to the cupboard to get out the bread; the children gathered round him, and he was going to ask a blessing, when there came a knock at the door, and when it was opened a baker's man entered the room with a tray before him, with a number of things heaped up on it, and when he put it down there was such a dinner as the children had never seen in their lives before—a great round of beef and a huge plum pudding, and other things besides. John said to the man, "This is not for me—it is a mistake." The man replied, "No, John, it is no mistake; your Father sent it for you because He takes care of you, and a better dinner the Lord Mayor never sat down to." "Then," said John, "I must ask a blessing," and he did so, and added, "All things work together for good to them that love God." John said, in speaking of all this, "So we all sat down together, and you should have seen those boys and girls; I never saw children with such a good appetite, for they had not had any dinner for two days. I helped them all one after another, and as they were eating they looked at me as much as to say, 'Father, we wish you would go to prison once a week!' When evening came," said John, "a gentleman called and said to me, 'Well, John, I am glad to see you home again, give me your hand;' and he shook hands with John in a very hearty manner. This gentleman told John that the constable ought to pay damages for having taken him away from his home. "Oh," said John, "I don't

want to damage the constable." "No," said the gentleman, "but he must pay something for what he has done." This gentlemen wrote to a lawyer, and the lawyer wrote to the constable, and the constable wrote back again, and said, "If you won't do anything to me, I'll give John £5." The £5 was accepted, and John went to the gentleman for half-a-crown every Saturday night for some time after; and as he walked away with the half-crown he said, "All things work together for good to them that love God." John went forty times to receive the half-crown, and as he picked it up he always said, "All things work together for good to them that love God." Now, boys and girls, the best thing that I can wish for you—and I wish it with all my heart, and not only wish it, but pray God that it may be so—the best thing that I can wish for you is that you may have that man's Father to be your Father.

My earnest desire is that if you grow up to be men and women, you may live in the house of good-content, that old John's Father may be your Father here, and that you may afterwards dwell in the Father's house, and sing sweet songs above. Amen and amen.

The children then sang "The Shoeblack's Song," the last verse of which had to be repeated; "Your Father's at the helm;" and "Safe in the arms of Jesus."

The Rev. W. CADMAN then moved the following resolution: "That this meeting, while appreciating the general interest awakened to extend education throughout the country, believes that the best welfare of the people is only to be secured by Bible teaching, and thereupon urges the Committee appointed this evening to use every effort to secure that teaching to the fullest extent of their power." He said: I feel it to be at once a duty and a privilege to stand on the platform of the Ragged School Union this evening, because I think it has now reached an important crisis in its history. There are certain great principles now at stake which must either be retained or departed from in the future management of this Society. I trust that they will never be departed from, but still the question is now before us. I remember the time when a question was raised which I find is being raised again in the present day, with reference to missions. That question was whether civilisation or Christianity should be first? There were some who said, "You must civilise before you can preach the Gospel and expect to christianise men." I remember well good old Mr. Simeon's speaking with great energy on that point in his last days, and saying that if he had strength to rise from his dying bed he would declare with all the power that God gave him that under any and under all circumstances men must christianise in order to civilise. I then felt the importance of that great principle, and I feel in the present day, when the question is raised again, that the Gospel is the great remedy for the fall of man which has been devised by the wisdom of God, and that, however degraded a human being may be, or however wretched may be his condition, the Gospel provides a remedy which is sufficient to raise him from his degradation, and to civilise as well as christianise him. Therefore I say that to christianise is the first important matter,

and that when this has been done civilisation will follow. Well, now, the same principle is involved, though it is expressed in different words, in the movement in which you are engaged. We hear education spoken of as the great remedy for many of the evils of society. Now, shall education be put first and foremost without any reference to religion, or shall our motto be, "The religion of the Bible and education"? Which shall come first? In other words, in gathering together children as they are gathered together in our Ragged Schools, shall we make it our first object to educate them, or, through God's blessing, to christianise them? Shall we seek the salvation of their souls first and foremost or not? Well, I maintain that in seeking the salvation of their souls first and foremost we shall not neglect the matter of education, and shall be most likely to raise them up from the low position to which surrounding circumstances have brought them. I maintain that by endeavouring to bring them first of all to Him who said, "Suffer little children to come unto Me," we shall be most likely to fit them for becoming useful members of society. I maintain that the wisest course, even in reference to the last-mentioned object, is to impress on children the great lesson contained in the words, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and a good understanding have all they that do his commandments." Let me illustrate this from a recollection of my youthful days with regard to a Sunday School with which I was then connected. One who had great influence in that school proposed that writing and summing should be taught there. I was but youthful then, but in looking back to that period I thank God that I was one of those who stood out against writing and summing on Sunday, and defended the cause of Bible instruction as that which alone was suitable for a Sunday School. But did we therefore neglect the writing and the summing? No; provision was made for having one or two evenings in the week in which the children should be taught to write and sum, those secular matters being left for week days instead of being allowed to intrude upon the sacred work of the Sunday School teacher. I say, let us have the religion of the Bible first, and then education in matters which we acknowledge to be useful, and which tend to fit men and women to occupy useful positions in society. This, I take it, is the way in which Ragged School teachers have been acting from the very commencement of their work. If the managers of such schools had waited until they could find teachers who could pass the examinations of her Majesty's inspectors; if they had waited until they had schoolrooms in which a certain number of pupil teachers were allowed for each child; if they had waited, in short, until they had all the appliances which were thought necessary to constitute an "efficient" school, they would not, as, through God's blessing, they have now been enabled to do, have achieved their object. The fact is that Ragged School teachers were determined to teach, but it was because they had the love of souls, prompted by the love of Christ. Constrained by Christ's love, they could not be satisfied with the mere education of the children under their care, but strove to bring them to the Saviour. Nor have their labours been without results as

regards the social elevation of children and those educational matters to which some attach exclusive importance. The records of the work of the Ragged School Union contain numbers of instances of persons who have been raised from the lowest depths of degradation, and are now occupying most important and useful positions in society. The Ragged School Union can afford to be tested by results, if by the term "results" is meant doing good, making people happy, and causing those who have been an injury to society to become useful to it. I hold in my hand a list of eleven cases of that kind which have passed immediately under my own eye, and the examination of which would convince the greatest doubter and disbeliever that results have been obtained which are of the most practical and valuable kind, showing as they do that while seeking to win the souls of children to Christ the Union has also been elevating them most materially in the social scale. I hold in my hand a paper-cutter sent to this country from Bombay by a young man who holds an important position in that part of India. Some years ago he knocked at the door of a house, in a starving condition, without a cap and without shoes or stockings, and, having heard that there was a refuge for boys in that condition, asked to be admitted, and his application was not made in vain. He had no friends then except those who conducted the Ragged School in which he was taught, and who were seeking to win souls to the Saviour; but the result of his admission to that school was that he was ultimately enabled to pass an examination so as to be qualified to occupy an important position under the Indian government. In that position he does not forget his old friends connected with the Ragged School which he attended, and he has sent to the matron who took special care of him this paper-cutter which I hold in my hand, with a letter in which he gratefully acknowledges the kind treatment which he received. This is one instance out of the eleven to which I have alluded. The results in the other cases are similar, and I must say that such results afford ample proof that Ragged School teaching has not been without effects even in reference to the matters ordinarily contemplated in education. Well, then, what is the conclusion to which I come? A well-known English nobleman said some time ago that he was "a Catholic first, and an Englishman afterwards." I say that we are Christians first, and then educationists. I say with reference to Ragged School work, that the spiritual work of winning souls to Christ, which characterises all sound teaching, is the first thing to be thought of, and that after that education comes into play. There are hundreds and thousands of men and women who have been zealously, faithfully, and with the greatest self-denial, labouring year after year, because, as servants of their Lord and Master, they wish to bring souls to Him. Now, shall these persons be all discarded and turned adrift? If everything is to depend upon those who would make education the foremost object, and teach children without that principle of love of which I have spoken, we should lose one of the great civilising agences which now exist through the agency of this Ragged School movement. I trust that whatever questions may be raised with

regard to the future, this great principle will never be lost sight of,—that you Ragged School teachers are to train children up for Christ,—that your great desire is to be to honour Him, and to honour Him by teaching His truth; while, at the same time, you endeavour to do your utmost as regards "the three R's" and other secular matters with which you may have to do. Let me, in conclusion, express my conviction that the necessity for Ragged Schools has not passed away: that, notwithstanding all that may be done or attempted by School Boards, there will be a number of children about the streets who will escape the School Board officers, but who cannot escape the efforts of Christian love. The efforts of Christian love must be put forth in order to gather these wanderers into the fold of the Good Shepherd. The motive which has hitherto constrained Ragged School teachers is one which is not likely to die away. The heart that has once felt the love of Christ will feel the impulses of that love to the end, and while there is a sinner to be reclaimed, or an ignorant one to be taught, there will, I am sure, be Christian men and women who, influenced by a desire to honour Him who died for them, will spare no pains to win for Him those who have been led astray, "no man caring for their souls." My lord, it was with great thankfulness that I heard Bishop Ryan quote a speech made by you in the House of Commons thirty years ago on the subject of education. You then made use of some very remarkable words. In speaking of the hundreds of thousands who required to be educated, you said that there were "many minds to be instructed, many hearts to be softened, and many souls to be saved." It is because the Ragged School Union keeps the last-mentioned point in view that I am thankful to have had an opportunity of advocating its cause this evening; and I would say to all Ragged School teachers,—Go on with your work as long as you can; do not give it up as long as you have an opportunity of proceeding with it, for there are still "many minds to be instructed, many hearts to be softened, and many souls to be saved."

The resolution having been adopted, the prize scholars sang, "Shall we gather at the river?"

Sir R. W. CARDEN moved the following resolution: "That this meeting respectfully thanks the President, the Earl of Shaftesbury, for presiding on this occasion, and for the great and long-continued services rendered by his lordship to the Society." He said: I am thankful that I have been enabled to be present at what I consider the most interesting meeting held in London at this period of the year, and I think the fact that there are now assembled in this room more than 3,000 people shows how strong public feeling still is in favour of Ragged Schools. I believe that such schools are more essential now, for London at least, than they ever were before, and I feel that it is our duty more than ever to do all we can to promote their prosperity. The School Board has taken many of our scholars; but its schools are established on a different basis from ours. The schools connected with the School Board have a schoolmaster or schoolmistress whose sole business is to educate children; whereas in our Ragged Schools—I say "*our*," because I have been connected with

Ragged Schools so long that I feel myself to be identified with them—we are not contented with teaching children, but we endeavour to obtain for them suitable situations in which they may earn their living. The great difficulty with the poorer classes is to get a good start in life, and that is part of what we endeavour to do for our children. *There* is a start in life! (pointing to the prize scholars). There are 600 children who have this evening been receiving prizes for good conduct in service, and numbers of other children will no doubt be in the same position when the proper time arrives. I hope the time will never arrive—and I was almost ashamed to find the possibility of such a thing implied in the Report—when we shall see the last of Ragged Schools. Some of the members of the School Board have told us in effect that we are not doing our duty. I wish they did their duty as well as we do ours. As regards the resolution which I have to propose, I would observe that there is one part of it which I am inclined to find fault with. That resolution says, "That this meeting respectfully thanks the President," &c. I say it is not "this meeting" merely, but the whole metropolis, which should thank his lordship. (Loud cheers.) The whole metropolis, nay, the whole of England, has benefited by the Ragged School movement. I might add the colonies as well, for they have also benefited by Ragged Schools. I wish I had the eloquence of some of the previous speakers, that I might be able to do something like justice to this subject. But, happily, to mention the name of Lord Shaftesbury is quite sufficient for the purpose. I may remark that his lordship appears to have the gift of ubiquity; we find him here, there, and everywhere at the same time. I was very much alarmed last Friday, because, the meeting of the Gray's Yard Ragged School having been fixed for that day, I discovered that his lordship was to present the prizes for the Donkey Show at the Crystal Palace on the same day; but my alarm was groundless. His lordship's kindness extends to quadrupeds as well as bipeds, and I have not the slightest doubt that since he gave away the prizes at the Crystal Palace, donkeys have risen twenty per cent. The resolution having been carried by acclamation—

The noble CHAIRMAN said: My good friends. If you looked at me and looked at the clock at the same time, you might well feel that my speech should be summed up in the words, "Good night;" and if the whole of you were to respond in the same words, that might be a very gratifying preparation for dissolving this assembly.

But there are just one or two remarks which I wish to make. My friend Mr. Cadman has spoken of the present era as a crisis in the history of the Ragged School Union. No doubt it is. We are exposed to great hostility, great danger, and very much difficulty. But let me tell you that many years ago, while I was a very young man, I was one day sitting with the old Duke of Wellington, and he gave me an account of the battle of Waterloo. He said, "I'll tell you what; according to the rules of war, we were beaten four times on that day; but so long as I can make a front I never consider myself beaten." (Cheers.) You know the result. Let us take the same kind of course as the Duke

did. However we may be driven from point to point, we shall still have something in our rear which it will be our duty to defend.

My friend Sir Robert Carden spoke about the occupation in which I was engaged last Friday afternoon. Now from that a great moral may be drawn. I certainly presided at the meeting at the Crystal Palace when the donkey prizes were distributed. The donkeys which were exhibited by the costermongers were sleek, clean, happy, fat, and in good condition, and yet those donkeys had been in the habit of doing their thirty miles a day. How was it that they looked so well, though they had been accustomed to do such a large amount of work? Why these costers—I speak especially of my own costers connected with Golden Lane—had never taken out their donkeys on the Lord's day, and there had been the greatest economy in the management of the animals arising from this consideration for them, and this respect for the sanc- of the Sabbath. (Cheers.)

Now, my friends, the School Board is advancing rapidly and decidedly, and is disturbing many of our operations and dismissing many of our children. I am not going to speak evil of dignities; but it is the privilege of Englismen to comment upon the acts of public persons, and I have a right to say that I think the School Board, before they come to any of our schools, declare them to be inefficient, and turn adrift the children who are there, should go into the streets and highways, the lanes and the hedges, and gather up the children who are in them. When they have gathered up all the children they can find in the deep recesses and the remote slums of the metropolis of London, then let them come and do their work in our schools, lay hold of the children, draw some of them into their receptacles, and turn the rest into the streets. That is a duty on their part, and we have a right to call upon them to discharge it.

Now, I sincerely hope and pray that those children who leave our Ragged Schools and go to Board Schools will recollect and keep close to their hearts the sound precepts of religion and the Gospel which they have learnt in their former places of instruction; and I trust that they will contrast them with the meagre diet, the short texts of Scripture without any explanation, and the total extinction of the teaching of all dogmatic and distinctive truths. And I hope also that the Ragged School teachers will be upon the look-out for their little charges, and that as they come out of the Board Schools they will address them, and by every act of kindness, by every form of attraction, which they can properly bring to bear, will endeavour to keep up and foster the good influences which have been produced in the mind and heart. Depend upon it that if that is done we shall still continue to hold meetings like the present one, and shall be enabled to inaugurate future movements for the benefit of other scholars.

Let me sum up my speech in some words of my own which were repeated by Mr. Cadman. We will never desist from efforts such as these; we will never desist from diving into the lowest recesses, from plunging into the mire of the most terrible slums, from going into all the haunts of misery, degradation, and sin; and so long as we do this

we shall find minds to be instructed, hearts to be converted, and souls to be saved. (Cheers.)

The children afterwards sang "God save the Queen," and the proceedings terminated with the benediction.

Correspondence.

HERTFORD—PRAYER MEETINGS FOR RAGGED SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the Ragged School Union Magazine.

SIR,—In accordance with the request of the Ragged School Union, a meeting was held on the 10th ult. in this Ragged School for united praise on behalf of the work of Ragged Schools generally.

Immediately on receipt of the notice a few friends made the request known among the parents of the children and others, and at the usual time for school a goodly number had assembled, and somewhat later the room became crowded. The children sang several of their favourite hymns, and the superintendent having briefly explained the objects of the meeting, asked the congregation to unite in praise to Almighty God for his goodness in the past, his spiritual aid in the work of the Union, the Hertford School, and Ragged Schools generally.

Subsequently earnest supplications went up for blessings on the Annual Meeting, for a large outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all teachers, managers, &c., of Ragged Schools, and children attending them, while the parents also were specially remembered and pleaded for. Throughout, the meeting was exceedingly interesting and impressive, and the proceedings manifestly guided by the Divine Presence.

The Ragged School work of Hertford has for some time been regarded as one of the most important features of the town, and as an evidence of this we may also state that when it became generally known that the Ragged School Union had asked the prayers of those interested in the movement, the various congregations of Nonconformists at once responded, and the superintendents of their Sunday Schools set aside the usual class teaching in the latter half of the allotted time, and held a special meeting for praise and prayer.

Thus we have had in our town a day long to be remembered for unity of purpose, and a large share of sweet and holy communion. This, it is hoped, will strengthen the workers, and carry them onward in the work of winning souls to Christ, from among the many haunts of misery, wretchedness, and vice, which abound on every hand.

I am, &c.,

Hertford Ragged School. S. R. H. S.

Ragged School Union.

THE monthly meeting of the Managing Committee was held on May 8th.

Quarterly grants amounting to £65 5s. 8d. were voted to twenty schools.

The two School Agents presented their half-yearly reports on the monitors employed in Day Schools. They reported that 216 monitors were so employed by 35 Day Schools, all of whom received daily training lessons from the paid teachers. They aided in teaching 5,488 scholars. The local schools paid £144 14s. 3d. for their services, towards which amount the Committee voted £68 5s. 8d.

A special grant of £20 was voted towards the liquidation of the debt on Moore Street School, and the annual grant to the Day School was increased from £10 to £17.

A special grant of £40 was voted towards the new building for Morton Road, in addition to £75 previously voted.

A special grant of £20 was given towards the repairs, &c., of Fox Court School; and £15 was also voted towards the liquidation of the debt.

A special grant towards the purchase of school material was voted for Cranbrook Street School. A special grant of £15 was ordered to be paid to Old Ford School.

The Committee agreed again to invite the paid teachers to spend a day with them in the country.

Applications for grants to Kingsland and Thrawl Street Schools will be considered at the next meeting.

Facts and Scraps.

LAMB AND FLAG, CLERKENWELL.—On April 28, Mr. and Mrs. G. Soltau were presented with handsome testimonials by the teachers and scholars of this school on their return from their wedding tour. The teachers gave a splendidly bound Bible, the scholars a pair of bronze candlesticks and a stereoscope; and the parents a Queen's reading lamp and an ornamental tablecloth.

OGLE MEWS, PORTLAND ROAD.—The friends of this school recently invited the parents of the scholars to a substantial tea. Upwards of 300 were present. The Rev. W. Cadman gave them an earnest address, to which they listened with the utmost attention.

NEW PUBLIC HOUSE BILL.—The present has been aptly called the "Publicans' Parliament." For by a

general trade combination, the publicans almost everywhere ousted the supporters of Lord Aberdare's Licensing Bill, and elected 60 brewers or distillers to protect their supposed interests. That they have *for the present* won this battle the retrograde Bill just introduced by the Government, and confirmed at the Publicans' Conference held on May 5th, too fully proves. By its provisions the London gin-palaces may be kept open till half-past twelve, instead of being compelled to close at twelve as at present. The penal clauses of the Act now in force, and which have done so much to decrease drunkenness, are also altered in every case in favour of the publicans. For instance, the magistrates will not be bound to endorse the licence, nor to inflict the minimum penalty for a first offence, nor to order police supervision. The Adulteration Clauses too, of the Act, are repealed, and the police powers of entry are restricted to the old powers of entry for the enforcement of order.

Notices of Meetings.

BUROSS STREET, COMMERCIAL ROAD.

The fourteenth annual meeting of this institution was held at St. George's Vestry Hall, St. George's East. Mr. C. T. Ritchie, M.P., occupied the chair.

The Secretary read the report, which said that there was an average attendance at the Day School of 107. The Committee especially wished it to be noticed that this branch of their operations was not antagonistic to the School Board, as the children attending were very young, and from inquiries made it was found that the parents were too poor to pay even a small amount for their teaching. There were three meetings held in connection with the Night School every evening, with an average attendance of 71 children. Two-thirds of these are over fourteen years of age, and they are mostly engaged during the day, either as shoeblacks or in factories. A special class for the senior scholars was held every Friday evening, when periodicals are supplied, and this was patronised by an average of 41. The Sunday School, both morning and afternoon, was well attended. The plan adopted here is for a plain address to be delivered during the time the children are assembled, and this, with plenty of singing, renders this department decidedly popular. The Mission Services and Band of Hope are also flourishing, and the Library was well patronised. The Penny Bank had 203 depositors, and £54 had been deposited during the year. A Children's Sick Fund Box has been started to enable the children to contribute their mites towards the relief of fellow-scholars.

GEORGE YARD, WHITECHAPEL.

On Thursday week, the large room was filled with men and women, the very poorest of our fellow-creatures, inmates of the cheap lodging-houses. At seven

o'clock Lord Shaftesbury arrived, accompanied by his daughter, Lady Edith Ashley, and two ladies.

Shortly after tea, the meeting commenced. One of the men from the lodging-houses asked that the Lord's blessing might be felt throughout the proceedings of the evening. After a hymn had been sung, Lord Shaftesbury read 1 Thess. iv., commenting upon the last six verses. Then one of the ladies sang two hymns, and Lord Shaftesbury addressed the poor people.

A second tea and meeting was also held, when the large room was filled with men and women of the lowest class. Lord Shaftesbury, accompanied by Lady E. Ashley, the Hon. Cecil Ashley, Miss Brown, and friends, entered the room at tea-time. They mingled with the people, advising some, and sympathising with all. After prayer, Lord Shaftesbury read Dan. iii. The Hon. Cecil Ashley delivered a most faithful address, which made a deep impression on those present. Then two beautiful hymns were sung by Miss Brown; "Thy will be done" made some of these rough ones weep. Lord Shaftesbury addressed those present with loving words, full of warning and encouragement.

KING EDWARD STREET, SPITALFIELDS.

In accordance with their annual custom, the teachers connected with the Sunday Evening Ragged School at King Edward Street, Mile End New Town, invited the parents of the children committed to their charge to tea. A goodly number availed themselves of the invitation, the Free Church being crammed on the occasion. The company adjourned to the King Edward Industrial Schools, where a public meeting was held under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury, who was supported by Messrs. H. R. Williams, J. H. Lloyd, Curtis (Ragged School Union), Rev. W. Tyler, and others interested in the Ragged School movement.

The following statistics may be of interest to our readers. The number of children on the books is 450; the average attendance during the past quarter, 306; the number of teachers, 20. With a view to counteract the pernicious tendency of much of the juvenile literature of the day a Library has been provided, numbering 400 volumes, which are lent to both parents and children. The other agencies in connection with the school comprise a Penny Bank, the deposits in which amounted during the past year to £40 15s. 7d.; a Band of Hope, members numbering 203, the attendance at the weekly meetings of which averages about 80; and a Benevolent Society, to which scholars in situations subscribed in the past year £8 14s. 3d., as also £1 1s. to the London Hospital, and a similar amount to the survivors of the "Northfleet." With a view to encouraging the children a large number were taken free of expense last summer to Southend, while at Christmas a treat was given, and a number of specimens of workmanship of various kinds were exhibited by the children, many of whom gained valuable prizes in the shape of workboxes and writing-desks. As a proof the value of the training given it may be stated that 30 were winners of the prizes distributed at the Annual Meeting of the Union held in Exeter Hall last month.

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The following contributions have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union from the 20th April, 1874, to the 19th of May, 1874, inclusive:—

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
A Friend	0	10	0
A Friend	0	1	0
Agnew, Miss M.	2	2	0
Aldrich, Captain H. D., R.N.	0	5	0
Atkinson, E., Esq.	5	0	0
Beckford, F. L., Esq.	1	0	0
Beckford, Mrs. W.	1	0	0
Bell, Miss	0	10	0
Betts, Mrs.	1	1	0
Blair, H. M.	3	0	0
Bowcher, Miss	0	10	6
Bowcher, Miss L.	0	10	6
Carpenter, Major Charles	5	0	0
Casenove, P., Esq.	10	0	0
Cobham, Miss E.	2	10	0
Cherry, Mrs. S.	0	10	0
De Morgan, G., Esq.	1	1	0
Drewitt, Miss	0	10	0
Edmonds, Miss	1	1	0
E. W. W.	0	1	6
Ellis, G. H., Esq.	5	5	0
Farrer, H. R., Esq.	1	1	0
Fawcett, J. B., Esq.	1	1	0
Field, Henry, Esq., and Mrs. Field	2	2	0
Green, Rev. Wm., M.A.	0	10	0
Griffin, Miss	1	1	0
Gulliford, Miss	1	2	6
Hancock, Miss	1	0	0
Hancock, Mrs.	0	5	0
Hawkins, Miss Sarah	0	16	6
Heley, Mrs. M.	0	10	0
Hewitson, W. G., Esq.	25	0	0
Holdship, J., Esq.	2	2	0
Howard, Mrs.	1	1	0
Lee, Miss	1	0	0
Lister, Miss M. F.	1	0	0
Lorkin, Miss A.	1	0	0
Lorkin, Miss	0	10	0
Lucy, Mrs.	0	10	0
Manns, Mrs.	0	1	0
Micklewaite, Miss C.	2	0	0
Morgan, Mrs. Jane	0	10	0
Moy, T., Esq.	1	1	0
Moy, Mrs.	1	1	0
Newsham, Mrs.	1	1	0
Nicholl, Mrs.	1	0	0
Noble, G. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Parsons, Miss	2	2	0
Payne, C., Esq.	0	10	6
Potter, Mrs.	20	0	0
Price, Mr. W.	0	10	6
Pratt, Rev. J., M.A.	1	0	0
Powell, Miss	0	10	0
Reade, Mrs.	0	10	0
Rebbeck, Mrs., per—			
Blandford, Miss	0	2	6
Fry, Mrs.	0	1	0
Giddings, Mrs.	0	1	0
King, Mrs.	0	2	6
Lush, Mrs.	0	2	6
Randall, Miss	0	1	0
Rawlence, Mrs.	0	5	0
Straton, C., Esq.	0	5	0
Rebbeck, Mrs.	0	10	0
Robeson, The Misses	1	0	0
Sargent, Mrs.	0	10	0
Scott, Septimus, Esq.	35	0	0
Ditto, Refuge	10	0	0
Smythe, Col.	1	0	0
Stewart, H., Esq.	2	0	0
S. E.	5	0	0
Thatcher, B., Esq.	1	1	0
Thorogood, Miss	2	2	0
Trimmer, E.	5	0	0
Tyndall, W. R., Esq	1	1	0
Tucker, Mrs. Henry	2	0	0
Turner, Mrs.	0	10	0
Vizer, E. B., Esq.	1	1	0
Watson, Mrs.	0	5	0
Waldegrave, Hon. Miss	1	1	0
Wigfield, Mrs.	1	0	0
Wilson, John, Esq.	1	1	0
W. J. C.	0	2	6
Young, Miss	0	2	0

Special Fund.

	£	s.	d.
"Chichester."			
Scott, S., Esq.	15	0	0
Field Lane.			
E. B.	0	5	0
Perkins's Rents.			
Hanbury, R., Esq.	1	1	0
Female Preventive.			
Price, Mr. W.	1	1	0
Turner, Mrs.	0	10	0
St. Giles.			
Turner, Mrs.	0	5	0

Weary Workers.

	£	s.	d.
C. M. S.	0	10	0
Newcome, Miss E. C.	1	0	0
Newcome, Miss C.	1	0	0
Price, Mr. W.	0	10	6
Winter, Thomas L. M., Esq.	2	2	0

Excursion Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Buffett, Miss	0	12	6
Scott, Septimus, Esq.	10	0	0
Turner, Mrs.	0	10	0

DONATIONS and SUBSCRIPTIONS will be thankfully received at the OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY, by the Secretary, Mr. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand; by Messrs. HATCHARD & SON, 187, Piccadilly; Messrs. NISBET & Co., 21, Berners Street; by the Bankers, Messrs. BARCLAY, BEVAN, & Co., 54, Lombard Street; and by the Collector, Mr. WILLIAM BLAKE, 1, Exeter Hall.

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NOTICE—1874.—MR. CONGREVE will be absent from London all the month of June. He will see Patients again at his residence *(on his usual mornings only)*, **from TUESDAY, JULY 7th, to SATURDAY, JULY 25th inclusive, after which he cannot be consulted personally until THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1st.**

The above arrangement applies only to personal consultations. Letters of advice as usual. Address—COOMBE LODGE, PECKHAM; and Medicine and Instructions will be forwarded without delay.

New Patients should send full statements of their cases (see page 32 of Mr. Congreve's treatise), and Patients who have written before should always name the date of their last letter.

REMARKALBE CASE of A LADY at SOUTHEND.

The following letter from the patient's husband will best relate the benefits she received—(the name of the lady is Mrs. SAML. HAWTREE, of SOUTHEND, ESSEX) :—

"Six years ago my wife complained of failing health. Her lungs were much affected. During the first four years of her illness she was attended at different times by four physicians, but became much weaker. *The muscles of the arms wasted nearly all away. Her breathing became so difficult, especially at night, that persons in the street could hear her, and no sleep could be got in the house.*

"At the end of the four years, when at her worst, the physician told me '*her lungs were like a honeycomb,*' and that she was '*past human aid.*' She was sinking, and so weak I could not think of bringing her to you, I therefore procured your medicine through the chemist at Rochford. She took it at bed-time, and *for the first time in twelve months I was not once disturbed with the distressing sounds.* She persevered for six months, and was so altered in appearance and health that *those only who had known her, before and after, could believe the extraordinary change she had undergone.* Winter brought on some symptoms of the old complaint, but the Balsam has again removed it. By the blessing of God *it has raised her from the very verge of the grave.*

"I may add that before taking your medicine the expectoration was very bad, and in the first month she brought up large quantities of the most corrupt matter, but after this it ceased; also before taking it she was unable to get out at all, but *but now she can walk and ride well for miles in the open air—even in winter.*

"You are at liberty to make any use of this letter.

"I am, dear sir, yours faithfully, SAML. HAWTREE."

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